

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-02 ISO-00 /005 R

66619

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSMITH:SM

APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE

NEA/ARP:BWRAMPMEIER

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R 270050Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT KHARTOUM 1498 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BRUSSELS 24 JUNE 1974. QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 1498

DEPT PASS VOA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJ: PRESS HANDLING VERDICT IN BSO CASE

REF: KHARTOUM 1495

1. IN ORDER AVOID ANY POSSIBLE EMBARRASSMENT TO GOS OR
ADVERSE IMPACT ON PRESIDENT NIMEIRI (WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE
CONFIRMING OR MODIFYING SENTENCES AFTER BRIEF UNPUBLICIZED REVIEW
BY HIGH COURT) RECOMMEND DEPT COMMENTS TO PRESS RE BSO VERDICT
BE FACTUAL AND LOW KEY. SOMETHING ALONG LINES PARA 2 BELOW WOULD
MEET CASE HERE.

2. QUOTE. AS RESULT FULL AND DETAILED EXAMINATION BSO CASE
BY SUDANESE MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY AND SUPERIOR COURT, EIGHT BSO
DEFENDANTS WERE ON JUNE 24 CONVICTED OF MURDER OF OUR THEN
AMBASSADOR AND HIS DEPUTY IN KHARTOUM IN MARCH 1973. CASE
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WAS CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE SUDANESE

JUDICIAL PROCESSES. THE LIFE SENTENCES IMPOSED ARE IN ACCORD WITH SUDANESE PENAL CODE IN SUCH CASES. THROUGHOUT THIS CASE DEPT HAS REMAINED CONFIDENT THAT JUSTICE WOULD BE DONE. SINCE THIS MATTER FALLS WITHIN PURVIEW JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, FURTHER COMMENT ON OUR PART WOULD BE CLEARLY INAPPROPRIATE. END QUOTE.

3. SHOULD JOURNALISTS PRESS QUESTION AS TO WHY CAPITAL PUNISHMENT NOT IMPOSED, SPOKESMAN MIGHT RECALL OUR OWN LEGAL POSITION RE DEATH PENALTY (E.G. SIRHAN SIRHAN) AND NOTE THAT ARTICLE 251 SUDANESE PENAL CODE SPECIFICALLY PRESCRIBES "DEATH OR LIFE IMPRISONMENT" FOR THOSE CONVICTED OF MURDER.

4. VOA SHOULD OF COURSE FOLLOW DEPT GUIDANCE AND IN PARTICULAR NOT REPEAT NOT GIVE UNDUE PROMINENCE TO OUTCOME.

5. SINCE WE UNDERSTAND SECRETARY MAY BE HOLDING PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 24, SUGGEST HE BE APPROPRIATELY BRIEFED IN EVENT A QUESTION IS ASKED.

6. ADDITIONALLY, DEPT WILL NO DOUBT WISH ASSURE MRS. NOEL AND MRS. MOORE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED OUTCOME, ALTHOUGH WE ASSUME THEY WILL NOT, REPEAT NOT, WISH TO RESPOND TO ANY PRESS QUERIES.
BREWER

UNQUOTE SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE138215
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RSMITH:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740169-0634
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974068/aaaaages.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KHARTOUM 1495
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <18 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS HANDLING VERDICT IN BSO CASE
TAGS: PINS, SU, BSO
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005